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Non-governmental organizations

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2009 session

(New York, 18-27 May 2009)

Summary

At its resumed 2009 session, held from 18 to 27 May 2009, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 142 applications for consultative status, including 82 applications deferred from its 1999 to 2009 sessions.

It decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council to grant consultative status to 36 organizations, not to recommend consultative status for one organization and to reclassify the consultative status of one organization.

The Committee recommended that the Council take note of the decisions by the Committee to close its consideration of the application of two non-governmental organizations and to close without prejudice consideration of the application of two other non-governmental organizations; to suspend its consideration of one application; and to defer its consideration of the application of 101 non-governmental organizations, including 62 organizations for which the receipt of responses to questions submitted during the 2009 resumed session was pending.

The Committee reviewed 123 quadrennial reports, 14 of which were deferred from previous sessions, and took note of 110 such reports. It decided to recommend to the Council the suspension of the consultative status of 94 organizations for a one-year period, in accordance with Council resolution 2008/4.

The Committee interacted with the representatives of 19 non-governmental organizations.

The present report contains five draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council.

* E/2009/100.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following 36 non-governmental organizations:

Special consultative status

Actions Solidaires de Soutien aux organisations et d'appui aux libertés

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Amici dei Bambini

Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Organization

Association des Badinga du Congo

Association pour l'action sociale et le développement

Benin Rural Assistance

Centres d'accueil de l'espoir

Centre d'animation, de formation, de recherche et d'appui au développement

Centre de développement agro-pastoral de Djolu

Centre de formation aux techniques informatiques

Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles

Vrienden van Congo

EastWest Institute

FATIMA Women's Network

Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme

Feminist League

Femmes autochtones du Québec

Fundación de Ayuda y Promoción de las Culturas Indígenas Rosa Collelldevall

Help for the Andes Foundation

Genève pour les droits de l'homme

Global Volunteer Network Foundation

GAVI Fund

Haiti Mission

Human Security Initiative Organization

International Initiative for Peace

International Institute for the Development of Citizenship

International Association of Women Judges

Smile of a Child

Magnificat Environment

National Youth Council of Russia

Passionists International

Regards de femmes

Volontariato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

Roster

International Information Centre for Terminology

(b) To reclassify the following non-governmental organization from special to general consultative status:

Russian Peace Foundation

(c) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 110 organizations (years of reporting are 2004-2007):

Aging Research Center

AIDS Information Switzerland

Alan Guttmacher Institute

Alulbayt Foundation

American Psychological Association

American Society for Training and Development

Arab Network for Environment and Development

Armenian Assembly of America

Asia Crime Prevention Foundation

Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre

Asociación Internacional de Presupuesto Publico

Association de volontaires pour le service international

Center for International Rehabilitation

Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic

China Association for Science and Technology

China Care and Compassion Society

Comité national d'entraide de la jeunesse et de l'enfance

Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches

Community and Family Services International

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Dogal Hayati Koruma Dernegi: Society for the Protection of Nature

Drug Abuse Information Rehabilitation and Research Centre

EarthRights International

European Intermodal Association

European Network of Policewomen

Finnish Youth Cooperation

Fondation Mohammed V pour la solidarité

Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone

Foundation ECPAT International

Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief

Foundation for the Support of the United Nations

Foundation Partners for Local Development

Fraternité Notre Dame

Front Line: International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Global Fund for Children

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

Hope Worldwide

Human Lactation Center

Indian Social Institute

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Institute for Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development

Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure

Institute of Social Studies Trust

International Association "Znanie"

International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property

International Astronautical Federation

International Automobile Federation

International Buddhist Relief Organisation

International Catholic Child Bureau

International Catholic Migration Commission

International Council of Environmental Law

International Council on Social Welfare

International Federation of Beekeepers Associations

International HIV/AIDS Alliance

International Native Tradition Interchange

International Planned Parenthood Federation (South Asia region)

International Prisoners Aid Association

International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

International Youth Hostel Federation

Isis: International Women's Information and Communication Service

Islamic Women's Institute of Iran

Kindernothilfe

Lay Movement for Latin America

Legal Advisory Office for Popular Organizations

Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme

Links Incorporated

Medecins sans frontières (international)

Minority Rights Group

National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

National Council of Women of Great Britain

National Council of Women of Thailand

Network of Human Development

Nippon International Cooperation for Community Development

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Pax Christi International

Peace Education Foundation

People with Disabilities Uganda

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Peter Hesse Foundation: Solidarity in Partnership for One World

Planetary Association for Clean Energy

Press Council

Project One

Rehab Group

Research Centre for Feminist Action

Research Institute for Enhancing Women's Lives

Right To Play

Sister to Sister International

Soroptimist International

Turtle Island Restoration Network

UMUT Foundation

United Nations Association of China

Universal Peace Federation

Vie Montante International

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

Volontari nel Mondo

Women's Cultural and Social Society

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Woods Hole Research Center

World Association of the Major Metropolises

World Council of Independent Christian Churches

World Energy Council

World Information Clearing Centre

World Movement of Mothers

World Organization of Former Students of Catholic Education

World Veterans Federation

World Vision Canada

World Vision International

World Wide Fund for Nature

Zayed International Prize for the Environment

(d) To note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decided to close without prejudice consideration of the request for consultative status made by the following two non-governmental organizations:

Confederation of Organisations in Road Transport Enforcement

International Coalition for the Decade

(e) To note that the Committee decided to suspend its consideration of the application for consultative status submitted by the non-governmental organization Ethiopian Human Rights Council

(f) To note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations decided to close its consideration of the application for consultative status submitted by the following two non-governmental organizations:

Assistance for a Voluntary Return and Reintegration of African Migrants

Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation

Draft decision II
Application of the non-governmental organization Democracy Coalition Project for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council decides not to grant consultative status with the Council to the non-governmental organization Democracy Coalition Project.

Draft decision III
Non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, listed pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4

Having confirmed at its resumed session in May 2009 that the Secretariat had reminded non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports of their reporting obligation and advised them of the consequences of their further non-compliance after 1 May 2009, and that it had notified the permanent missions of the Member States in which the headquarters of such organizations are based of the final reminders, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, listed pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4

The Economic and Social Council decides, in accordance with its resolution 2008/4 of 21 July 2008, to suspend immediately, for a period of one year, the consultative status of the organizations listed in the annex hitherto, and requests the Secretary-General to advise the concerned organizations of their suspension.

Annex
Non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, listed pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4

Africa Club for Integrated Development

African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters

African Women Jurists Federation

Anti-Apartheid Movement

Arab Towns Organization

Arab Women's Forum

ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations

Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners

Asociación Regional de Empresas de Petroleo y Gas Natural en Latinoamerica y el Caribe

Assemblée parlementaire de la francophonie

Association des habitants d'El Mourouj

Association fès-saïss

Association of African Women for Research and Development

Association of Non-Governmental Organizations

Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Small-Scale Industries

Association pour le progrès et la defense des droits des femmes maliennes

Banana Kelly Community Improvement Association

BUSCO: Business Association for the World Social Summit

Centre for the Study of Administration of Relief

Centre of Arab Women for Training and Research

Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer

Children Australia

Christian Peace Conference

Collectif 95 Maghreb égalité

Comité directeur international sur la promotion économique des femmes rurales

Communication and Development Institute

Communities Forestry and Social Development Organization

Conseil national de la jeunesse et de l'avenir du Maroc

Council of European and Japanese National Shipowners Associations

Council on Economic Priorities

Energy 21

English International Association of Lund (Sweden)

Equilibre

Europe Migrants Associations Council

European Federation of Conference Towns

European Insurance Committee

Food and Disarmament International

Forum for African Women Educationalists

Foundation for the Support of the United Nations

Fundación EcoMediterrania

Geneva International Peace Research Institute

Gram Bharati Samiti

Group for International Solidarity

Inter-African Network for Human Rights and Development

International Association for Feminist Economics

International Association of Civil Servants

International Association of Intercultural Studies

International Commission of Health Professionals for Health and Human Rights

International Council of Human Duties

International Council on Monuments and Sites

International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa

International Geothermal Association

International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights

International Institute for Prevention of Drug Abuse

International Miners Organization

International Organization of Journalists

International Social Science Council

International Society for Criminology

International Society for Research on Aggression

International Society of Postmasters

International Union of Housing Finance Institutions

International Union of Technical Associations and Organisations

International Union of Young Christian Democrats

International Youth Foundation

Latin American Association of Industrial Design

Marine Environmental Research Institute

Mega-Cities Project

National Association for the Protection of the Environment and Green Egypt

National Association of Realtors

National Women's Union of Romania

Pan-African Institute for Development

Private Agencies Collaborating Together

Professional Association of Independent Institutions Concerned with Addiction

Program for Research and Documentation for Sustainable Development

Programme Support Unit Foundation

Publication and Coordination Centre of Islamic Ideology and Sufi-ism

Refugee Policy Group

Réseau femmes africaines et droits humains

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program International

Rural Enterprising as a Community Help

Soroptimist International of Greece

Sto. Nino Organic Farmers

Teenage Mother Civil Association

Treaty Four

Universal Federation of Travel Agents Associations

Wellstart International

Women Action Research and Training Group

Women and Child Development Association

Women in Law and Development in Africa

Women's Political Network of Pennsylvania

World Africa Chamber of Commerce

World Assembly of Youth

World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations

World Management Council

Draft decision IV
Dates of and provisional agenda for the 2010 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decides that the 2010 regular session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations will be held from 25 January-3 February 2010 and its resumed 2010 session from 26 May-4 June 2010;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the 2010 session of the Committee as set out below.

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;
   (c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.
4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:
   (a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council;
   (b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.
5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch* of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.
6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;
   (b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group;
   (c) Other related matters.
7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 and decision 2008/217.
8. Consideration of special reports.
9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.
10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2011 session of the Committee.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

* As of 1 May 2009, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section has become the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch.

Draft decision V
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2009 session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2009 session.

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification

2. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organization", at its 18th to 25th meetings, held from 18 to 21 May 2009, and at its 27th to 31st meetings, held from 22 to 27 May 2009. It had before it the following documents:

(a) New applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2009/R.2 and R.2/Add.23-34);

(b) Requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2009/R.3);

(c) Applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held during the period 1999-2008 (E/C.2/2009/CRP.8).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

3. The Committee considered item 3 (a) of its agenda, entitled "Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee", as contained in document E/C.2/2009/CRP.8, at its 22nd to 25th meetings, held from 20 to 22 May 2009, and at its 27th to 31st meetings, held on 26 and 27 May 2009.

Applications recommended

4. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to 16 non-governmental organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

5. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of 62 non-governmental organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions submitted during the 2009 resumed session.

Applications closed

International Coalition for the Decade

6. At its 22nd and 23rd meetings, on 20 May 2009, the Committee decided to close without prejudice consideration of the applications of the following two non-governmental organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)):

Confederation of Organisations in Road Transport Enforcement

International Coalition for the Decade

Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation

7. At its 30th meeting, on 27 May 2009, the Committee considered the application of Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation as contained in document E/C.9/2009/CRP.8.

8. The representative of China stated that the application of the non-governmental organization had been deferred from 2007 because the organization had refused to answer some questions, specifically about its membership in China, which is a required question on the application, by maintaining that due to the lack of religious freedom in the country it would not divulge the information. The representative of China reminded the Committee that during the past session, the Secretariat had sent an official notice to the non-governmental organization asking it to provide responses to the Committee's questions, without which the Committee would consider the possibility of closing its application. Instead, the non-governmental organization had used evasive tactics by responding to questions with irrelevant stories that were groundless and unacceptable. She stressed that this behaviour indicated a lack of respect for a Member State and showed a pattern of disrespect and disregard for the Committee, to which statement the representative of the Russian Federation concurred. Under the circumstances, the Chinese representative requested that the Committee close the application of the non-governmental organization.

9. The representative of the United States agreed that the Committee was not yet in a position to make a decision on the organization since there were still a number of questions pending. He argued, however, that resolution 1996/31 did not require a non-governmental organization to provide the names and residential addresses of all of its members and that this information had no bearing on the eligibility criteria outlined in the resolution. Therefore, only the requirements set out in resolution 1996/31 should need to be met by a non-governmental organization.

10. The representatives of Egypt, Cuba, Pakistan and the Sudan expressed their concerns about the organization's ability to contribute to the work of the Council. They also maintained that the Committee was entitled to a response from the applicant and that members had the right to ask any question they chose to ask.

11. With regard to questions posed by the representative of China to the organization to disclose the locations of the organization's members in China, the Secretariat clarified the use of the term "location" by explaining that it may be interpreted as a province, city or larger entity, and not necessarily an address.

12. The representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States, Israel and Romania expressed great concern and uneasiness about the proposal to close the

application without appropriate justification. They argued that the type of questions asked had no bearing on the merits of the non-governmental organization or its ability to contribute to the work of the Council under resolution 1996/31, and that such an action would reflect negatively on the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations itself.

13. Due to the prevailing difference of opinion on the issue of whether or not to close the application of Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation, the representative of the United States then called for a vote on the proposal made by the representative of China.

14. In a roll-call vote of 12 votes to 4, with 3 abstentions, the proposal to close the application of Dynamic Christian World Mission Foundation was adopted. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Guinea, India, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan, Turkey.

Against:

Israel, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Colombia, Dominica, Peru.

15. In general statements made after the vote, the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, Romania and Israel reiterated their concerns about the fact that instead of encouraging the inclusion of diverse voices and opinions from civil society to prevail in the work of the United Nations and the Council, certain members of the Committee were stifling them, as evidenced by their biased and repetitive voting patterns.

16. The representatives of Egypt, Turkey and the Sudan maintained that they voted in favour of the proposal made by China mainly on procedural grounds since the non-governmental organization had repeatedly failed to respond to legitimate questions that had been posed to it several times before and had been warned in the past session that the Committee would consider closing its application if the non-governmental organization continued to avoid answering Committee questions. The representative of Peru stated that it was the legitimate right of members to ask questions, within the framework of resolution 1996/31, to non-governmental organizations seeking consultative status with the Council. However, it had abstained from voting because of concerns with the way a number of questions had been formulated, which might not reflect the spirit of the resolution and could set an undesirable precedent for the Committee.

Applications suspended

Ethiopian Human Rights Council

17. At its 31st meeting, on 27 May 2009, the Committee considered the application of the non-governmental organization Ethiopian Human Rights Council, as contained in document E/C.2/2009/CRP.8.

18. The observer for Ethiopia made a statement explaining that the organization had not yet taken any steps to register with the authorities in his country under a new law that was recently enacted by parliament. He argued that the organization therefore had no legal status currently and called for the closure of its application. The Committee was informed that the new law allows non-governmental organizations a grace period of one year to rectify their legal status. In its response to Committee questions, the organization clarified that it was following internal procedures for re-registration and that it was in the process of applying to the relevant Ethiopian authorities.

19. In response to the statement by the observer for Ethiopia, the representative of the United States argued that the non-governmental organization's current lack of status should not be held against the organization because it was through no fault of its own, but due to changes in the laws for the registering of non-governmental organizations in Ethiopia, which had affected its status. Furthermore, since the Ethiopian Human Rights Council had re-registered with the Government of Ethiopia and was awaiting the Government's response, consideration of the status of the organization should likewise remain pending.

20. The representatives of Israel and the United Kingdom supported the United States proposal, saying that the non-governmental organization had met the basic requirements of resolution 1996/31. The representative of Burundi suggested studying the application further.

21. Following statements from the representatives of Egypt, the United States, India, Qatar, China, the Sudan, Burundi, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Dominica, Cuba, Israel and Peru and by the observers for Switzerland and Ethiopia, the Committee decided to suspend its consideration of the application submitted by the non-governmental organization Ethiopian Human Rights Council.

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

22. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, entitled "New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification", as contained in documents E/C.2/2009/R.2, E/C.2/2009/R.2/Add.23-34 and E/C.2/2009/R.3, at its 18th through 21st meetings, held on 18 and 19 May 2009, at its 23rd and 25th meetings, held on 20 and 21 May 2009, and at its 28th meeting, held on 26 May 2009.

1. New applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

23. The Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 20 non-governmental organizations (19 special and 1 roster), which had submitted new applications.

Application not recommended

Democracy Coalition Project

24. At its 29th meeting, on 26 May 2009, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations considered the application of the non-governmental organization Democracy Coalition Project, as contained in document E/C.2/2009/CRP.8.

25. Following additional questions and clarifications posed by the representatives of various member States to the organization, the representative of the United States stated that the questions had been asked many times before and had already been answered by the organization. Therefore, in order to avoid unnecessary delays in reaching a decision, he proposed recommending special consultative status for the non-governmental organization, arguing that the organization had met all the requirements under Council resolution 1996/31.

26. The representatives of the Russian Federation, Cuba and China maintained that the organization had engaged in politically motivated activities against certain Member States and had thereby discriminated against them. They pointed out that the work of the organization was contrary to the provisions set out in paragraphs 2 and 57a of Council resolution 1996/31 because it was not in conformity with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and because it was critical of the actions of some Member States.

27. The representative of the United States argued, however, that paragraph 57a dealt only with suspending non-governmental organizations after they had been accredited, and that by simply expressing its opinions a non-governmental organization could not be accused of working against the principles and Charter of the United Nations or of being politically motivated.

28. The representatives of Qatar and Egypt argued that there were inaccuracies in the organization's publications issued in March 2009 on the voting patterns in the General Assembly despite the fact that the information was available to the public and that the organization had yet to clarify the inaccuracies and respond to the questions posed to it in this regard during the current session of the Committee. They clarified that these issues had not been addressed by the Committee in previous sessions due to their recent occurrence and urged all Committee members to allow the organization time to respond to all the queries instead of rushing to a decision. The representatives of India, Pakistan, Turkey and the Sudan also maintained that time should be allowed for the organization, Democracy Coalition Project, to respond to the recent questions posed to them.

29. Strong support for the work of the organization and for the recommendation to grant it consultative status were also voted by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Romania, Colombia, Israel and Peru. The representative of the United States reiterated his position that there was no reason to further delay making a decision on recommending special consultative status to the non-governmental organization.

30. The representative of the Russian Federation then called for a vote on the proposal of the United States.

31. In a roll-call vote of 8 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions, the proposal to recommend to the Council to grant consultative status to the Democracy Coalition Project was rejected. The result of the vote was as follows:

In favour:

Colombia, Israel, Peru, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Angola, Burundi, China, Cuba, Egypt, Qatar, Russian Federation, Sudan.

Abstaining:

Dominica, Guinea, India, Pakistan, Turkey.

32. An explanation was made after the vote by the representatives of Angola and Burundi, in which they stated that they could not support the application of an organization that targeted United Nations Member States with inaccurate and politically motivated information. The representatives of Egypt, Qatar and the Sudan regretted the rush to a decision and reiterated that they had posed very pertinent questions that touched upon the credibility of the information used in the organization's publications, which remained unanswered. The representatives of Dominica, Guinea, India, Pakistan and Turkey maintained that they had abstained because a decision was not possible since additional questions had been asked that merited a response from the organization.

33. A general statement was made by the representative of the United States after the vote. He expressed sadness at the Committee's decision, stating that it was incumbent on the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies and organs to defend civil society's right to provide constructive criticism of Governments since the United Nations was a democratic institution built on the very foundation that a variety of opposing viewpoints openly expressed would make for a better and more informed decision. Furthermore, he deplored the use of what he termed "standard filibuster tactics", namely, asking infinite questions of non-governmental organizations to avoid making decisions on granting them consultative status.

2. New requests for reclassification

Russian Peace Foundation

34. At its 21st meeting, on 19 May 2009, the Committee had before it a request for reclassification of consultative status, as contained in document E/C.2/2009/R.3/Add.1. The Committee decided to reclassify the non-governmental organization Russian Peace Foundation from special to general consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)).

Applications closed

35. At its 28th meeting, on 26 May 2009, the Committee considered the application of the non-governmental organization Assistance for a Voluntary Return and Reintegration of African Migrants, as contained in document E/C.2/2009/R.2/Add.27. The Committee decided to close the application of the non-governmental organization (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (e)).

C. Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status

36. The Committee did not have any applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that had merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.

III. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

A. Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

37. At its 26th meeting, on 22 May 2009, the Committee considered sub-item 4 (a) of its agenda, entitled "Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council". It had before it the following document:

> Compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council deferred from previous sessions held in 1999 and in the period from 2005 to 2008 (E/C.2/2009/CRP.2).

38. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of three organizations and deferred consideration of the quadrennial reports of 11 organizations.

B. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

39. At its 26th meeting, on 22 May 2009, the Committee considered sub-item 4 (b) of its agenda, entitled "Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council". It had before it the following document:

> Quadrennial reports for the periods 2003-2006 and 2004-2007: notes by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/2009/2 and Add.1-18).

40. At the same meeting, the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 110 organizations and deferred consideration of the quadrennial reports of two organizations.

IV. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

41. At its 27th meeting, on 22 May 2009, the Committee jointly considered agenda item 5, "Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat", and agenda item 6, "Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304". The newly appointed Chief of the Branch informed the Committee members that the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch had been upgraded from the Non-Governmental Organizations Section as of 1 May 2009 and that many improvements in its work were already being instituted, with a view to making it more efficient and effective. However, the Branch was facing resource constraints with regard to replacing obsolete computer equipment and increasing its outreach activities. As the current balance of resources in the Trust Fund was low, the Branch appealed to the Committee members to consider making generous contributions for the purchase of new equipment, which would also allow further improvements to the Branch database and website.

42. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Pakistan, Egypt, Israel, the United States, China, Colombia, Burundi, the Sudan, India, Qatar, Guinea and Angola and the observer for Morocco. They welcomed the new Branch team and expressed their interest in considering proposals on ways to further strengthen the Branch. The majority of speakers stressed the need to pay more attention to adding staff from developing countries when filling vacant posts, as mandated by Council resolution 2008/5, with a view to achieving a more equitable geographical distribution within the Branch. The Secretary recalled that the principle of equitable geographic distribution was applicable to the Secretariat as a whole rather than per organizational unit and, moreover, that such issues fell under the purview of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Some representatives invited the Secretariat to report on proposals to further strengthen the capacity of the Branch within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, as well as the importance of maintaining institutional memory, and of thereby making full use of the lessons learned and best practices so as to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently and effectively, pursuant to the resolution. Speakers also asked the Branch to ensure that documents were made available to the Committee members in time before the start of a session, as required by the Council in its resolution 1996/31, and for the Branch to show more flexibility regarding the requirement for non-governmental organizations to apply through the "paperless committee" since some organizations from developing countries might have limited access to computers.

V. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

43. At its 31st meeting, on 27 May 2009, the Committee considered agenda item 6 and had before it a draft decision submitted by the Chairperson, entitled "Non-governmental organizations with outstanding quadrennial reports, listed pursuant to Council resolution 2008/4", as contained in document E/C.2/2009/L.2/Rev.1. The Committee was briefed on the progress achieved by the Secretariat in taking measures aimed at improving the quadrennial reporting procedures in accordance with Council resolution 2008/4. The Secretariat informed the Committee that it had sent notifications on numerous occasions to non-governmental organizations that had not fulfilled the requirement to submit quadrennial reports in 2008, pursuant to the same resolution. To that end, the Secretariat had also sought assistance from the permanent missions to the United Nations of countries where the non-governmental organizations had their headquarters, as well as from the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. Having been informed of the efforts by the Secretariat, the Committee recommended that the Council suspend 94 non-governmental organizations, which had failed to submit quadrennial reports according to the guidelines set out in Council resolution 2008/4, for a period of one year.

44. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III).

45. Also at its 31st meeting, before the adoption of the draft decision, the Committee heard a statement by the representative of Cuba.

Statements by non-governmental organizations at the substantive session of 2009 of the Economic and Social Council

46. At its 27th meeting, on 22 May 2009, the Committee took note of the requests submitted by the 32 organizations to be heard by the Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2009 (see E/C.2/2009/CRP.14):[1]

ActionAid (Special, 1991)

African Medical and Research Foundation (Roster, 1977)

Alulbayt Foundation (Special, 2004)

Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (General, 2006)

CARE International (General, 1991)

Cercle de recherche sur les droits et les devoirs de la personne humaine (Special, 2008)

[1] Current status and year in which the organization was granted that status appear in parentheses after the organization's name.

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (General, 2002)

Family Health International (Special, 2002)

Global Alliance for Women's Health (Special, 1998)

Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (Special, 2005)

HelpAge International (General, 1995)

International Confederation of Midwives (Roster, 2002)

International Council of Nurses (Roster)

International Federation of Medical Students Associations (Special, 2003)

International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations (Roster)

International federation "Terre des hommes" (Special, 1987)

International HIV/AIDS Alliance (Special, 2000)

International Medical Corps (Special, 2007)

International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (Roster, 2006)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (General, 1973)

International Public Policy Institute (Roster, 1984)

International Save the Children Alliance (General, 1993)

International Society of Doctors for the Environment (Special, 2002)

International Union Against Cancer (Roster)

IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association (Special, 2004)

Médecins du monde (international) (General, 1996)

Médecins sans frontières (international) (General, 2000)

Oxfam International (General, 2002)

Rotary International (General, 1993)

Sulabh International (Special, 1996)

World Federation for Mental Health (Special, 1963)

World Vision International (General, 2004)

Other related matters

Non-governmental organizations that ceased to exist, withdrew their applications or requested a name change

47. At its 31st meeting, on 27 May, the Committee took note of the non-governmental organizations that had ceased to exist and those that had withdrawn their applications.

48. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the change of name requested by the following organizations:

Association de volontaires pour le service international to AVSI Foundation

Catholics for a Free Choice to Catholics for Choice

Economists Allied for Arms Reduction to Economists for Peace and Security

International Association of Agricultural Students to International Association of Students in Agricultural and Related Sciences

International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity to CIDSE

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives to Local Governments for Sustainability

International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy to Union of the Electricity Industry

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights to Advocates for Human Rights

Robert F. Kennedy Memorial to Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

VI. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 and decision 2008/217

49. At its 27th meeting, on 22 May 2009, the Committee considered Council resolution 2006/46 and decision 2008/217, in which the Council had invited the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider the applications of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities not in consultative status with the Council, but which had received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society. The Committee heard a statement by the representative of the United States and by the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

VII. Consideration of special reports

50. The Committee did not receive any complaints from any Member State against any non-governmental organization.

VIII. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

51. See chapter IV of the present report.

IX. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2010 session of the Committee

52. At its 31st meeting, on 27 May 2009, the Committee considered item 10 of its agenda and had before it the draft provisional agenda for its 2010 session (E/C.2/2009/L.3).

53. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt made a statement.

54. Also at its 31st meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council the following dates for the sessions in 2010: 25 January-3 February 2010 for its 2010 regular session and 26 May-4 June 2010 for its resumed 2010 session (see chap. I, draft decision IV, subpara. (a)).

55. At its 31st meeting, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its 2010 session for submission to the Council (chap. I, draft decision IV, subpara. (a)).

56. At the same meeting, before the adoption of the provisional agenda for its 2010 session, the Committee heard statements by the representative of Cuba and by the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch.

X. Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

57. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations held its 2009 resumed session from 18 to 27 May 2009. The Committee held 14 meetings.

B. Attendance

58. The session was attended by 19 members of the Committee. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, observers for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is available from http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo.

C. Agenda

59. At its 18th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 2009 session, as contained in document E/C.2/2009/1 and as adopted at the first meeting of its regular session on 19 January 2009. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee;

(b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;

(c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with other non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.

4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council;

(b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:

(a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group;

(c) Other related matters.

7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46 and decision 2008/17.

8. Consideration of special reports.

9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2010 session of the Committee.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

60. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work, as contained in working paper No. 1.

D. Documentation

61. The list of documents before the Committee at its 2009 resumed session is available from the website of the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (http://www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo).

XI. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its resumed 2009 session

62. At its 31st meeting, on 27 May 2009, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement before the adoption of the report of the Committee, in which he stressed that while some non-governmental organizations had made constructive contributions to the work of the Council, a few others had abused their consultative status. This included working against the interest of certain Member States, such as during elections to United Nations bodies. The representative asserted that under the circumstances, the Russian delegation reserved the right to respond appropriately.

63. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft report (E/C.2/2009/L.4) and authorized the Rapporteur, Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, of Pakistan, to finalize it, with the support of the Secretariat.